(b) whether Government have assessed this situation; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to attract them in the country by providing proper job opportunities within India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Variants of Dispirin

1399. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dispirin, the popular analgesic pharmaceutical medicine has undergone a major restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the different variants of this medicine to be manufactured and the different diseases, each of the variants is expected to take care of; and

(d) by when these variants are likely to reach the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) M/s Reckitt Benekiser (I) Ltd., Mysore who were marketing soluble Aspirin 3.25 mg. Tablet under the brand name "DISPRIN" were permitted by Drugs Controller, Karnataka to change to "DISPRIN PLUS" with the composition Paracetamol I.P. 500 mg. per tablet. The firm was however, directed that the label of Dispirin Plus shall bear the words. "New Formula" for two years.

Since the new brand *i.e.* 'Disprin Plus' was considered misleading as there was no addition of any therapeutic ingredients to the earlier formulations of Disprin containing Aspirin, the matter was taken up with the Drugs Controller, Karnataka to review the permission granted by them.

Drugs Controller, Karnataka has informed that an order was passed on 8.11.2001 to stop the production and distribution of 'Disprin Plus' tablets. Fresh permission to change the name of the product from Disprin Plus to 'Disprin Paracetamol has been granted to the firm as this product contains Paracetamol and not Aspirin.

(c) and (d) Aspirin in lower dose is indicated in case of increased risk of blood clotting, myocardial infaraction *etc*. M/s Reckitt Benckiser is marketing Aspirin

100 mg. under the brand name 'Colsprin'. Few other brands of low dose Aspirin available in the market are Dynasprin (M/s USV), Loprin (M/s Unichem). Micropyrin (M/s Nicholas), Asprin (M/s Cipla), Aspicot (M/s Concept) etc.

Incidence of Heart Diseases in the country

1400. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heart disease takes a beating in West, on the rise here", which appeared in the Economic Times, dated 1st October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to reduce the incidence of heart diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the causes of this disease are attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control this disease.

Import of medicines and medical equipments

1401. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred annually for importing medicines and medical equipments during the last three years;

(b) the reason for huge quantity of import of medicines and medical equipments; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of these to reduce import?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Value of India's total import of medicine and Pharmaceutical Products during the last three years as per Foreign Trade Statistics of India — March 1998, 1999,